

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. The application has been amended as follows: Claims 5-18, 21-22, 33-38, 40-49, 52-58 and 60-79 have been cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 1, 25-32, 50-51, 59, 80 and 81 are allowed over prior art record. The claims 1-14 will be renumbered for issue.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of references disclose or fairly suggest among other thing, "an editing probability estimation unit configured to compute a value X corresponding to a probability for an editing process to be applied to an image for each local region, based on either a learning image or a device characteristic input to the editing probability estimation unit; a local region weight calculation unit configured to calculate an image-region-based weight value based on the probability for the editing process output by the editing probability estimation unit" (in claims 1, 51 and 59). It is for this reason and in combination with all of the other elements of the claims, that claims 1, 25-32, 50-51, 59, 80 and 81 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKLILU k. WOLDEMARIAm whose telephone number is (571)270-3247.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m-5:00 p.m EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner *by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bali Vikkram can be reached on 571-272-7415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.*

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. k. W./
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624
04/01/2011

/Wes Tucker/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624